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PATENT APPLICATION

**TECHNIQUES FOR IMPORTING COMPRESSED CONTENT
PACKAGES INTO A NETWORK PORTAL**

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TECHNIQUES FOR IMPORTING COMPRESSED CONTENT PACKAGES INTO A NETWORK PORTAL

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 [0001] This application claims of the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application 60/518,866, filed November 10, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to techniques for importing content package files into a network portal, and more particularly, to techniques for importing a compressed content
10 package file and its related content files into a network portal.

[0003] A content package file is a relational data structure that contains one or more references to content files. These content files are referred to as the first level content files. Any of the first level content files can contain one or more references to second level content files. Any of the second level content files can contain references to third level content files,
15 and so on.

[0004] The content files reside in the same directory as the content package file or in subdirectories of the package content file directory. The directory that the content package file resides in is referred to as the base directory, and the references specified in the content package file and in any of the other content files are relative to the base directory. The base
20 directory is typically related to the machine that the files are stored in. A content package file is written in the computer programming language Extensible Markup Language (XML).

[0005] Client-server systems can import content package files over a network to a portal server computer. The content package file is sent to a portal server along with the base directory.

25 [0006] When a content package file is imported, content files that are referred to in the content package file are also imported and stored on the portal server computer. The portal server concatenates the content file references to the base directory to get a path or a universal resource locator (URL). The portal server then fetches the content files from this path or URL.

[0007] The portal server establishes a separate communication with a client machine to retrieve each of the content files that are referred to within the content package file and within the content files. If numerous content files are referenced, the portal server establishes numerous communications and perform numerous file transfers to retrieve each of the content files. This process can take a significant amount of time. Also, a significant amount of overhead bytes are needed to establish each communication between a server and a client machine.

[0008] Therefore, it would be desirable to provide techniques for importing content packages through a network portal that do not require the portal server to establish multiple communications with a client machine to separately transfer each content file.

[0009] In prior art systems, the directories of the content files are shared and are in the same domain, so that a portal server can recognize the directories on the client machine. A user has to enter the client machine name before he can browse through content files so that the server portal can locate the correct directory.

[0010] A problem with this technique is that it does not provide the user with an intuitive approach to locating content files on the client machine. Therefore, it would be desirable to provide a more intuitive approach for locating the content files on the client machine.

[0011] In prior art systems, the content files had to be granted read permission in order for the portal server to be able to read and fetch the content files. It would therefore be desirable to provide a more secure and less restrictive way for content files to be transferred to a portal server.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] The present invention provides techniques for importing a content package file that contains references to content files over a network to a portal server. A content package file is bundled together with its related content files and compressed. The compressed file is then transferred from a client machine to a portal server in a single communication over a network. Alternatively, the compressed file is transferred from one server to another server in a single communication.

[0013] Using the techniques of the present invention, a bundled and compressed content package is transferred to the server in less time and using less overhead, because only one

communication is established to transfer the compressed file. Because only one communication is needed to transfer the compressed file that contains the content package file and all its related content files, the content files do not need to be granted read permissions, because the portal server does not have to access the client machine to fetch the content files.

[0014] Once the compressed file is stored at the server machine location, the content files are decompressed from the compressed file. The content files are then imported from the server machine location.

[0015] The content files are placed into the same subdirectories according to how they were previously organized. This technique provides a more intuitive way for a user to locate content files, because the user does not have to identify the machine name where the content files are stored in.

[0016] According to one embodiment of the present invention, a content package file and its related content files are compressed into a zip file on a client machine or on a server machine. The zip file is then transferred to a portal server in one communication. The zip file is then unzipped, and the content files are stored on the portal server in the same subdirectories.

[0017] Other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent upon consideration of the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings, in which like reference designations represent like features throughout the figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] Figure 1 illustrates a process for allowing a user to import a bundled and compressed content package file and its related content files according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0019] Figure 2 illustrates an example of a display screen that allows a user to select a compressed content package file to import that file according to the present invention; and

[0020] Figure 3 illustrates a system that can be used to import a compressed content package file according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0021] The present invention provides techniques for importing content files that have been bundled together and compressed over a network. A content package file and related content files are bundled and compressed together into one file. The compressed file is imported
5 through a network, and then decompressed, separated, and stored locally.

[0022] Figure 1 is a flow chart that illustrates a process performed by a portal server to import a compressed content package file according to the present invention. Before a content package file is imported, a user bundles together and compresses the content package file and all of the content files referred to in the content package file or in other content files.

10 [0023] As an example, a user bundles and compresses the content package file and the content files into a zip file using a ZIP compression tool. Compression is especially useful for a large sized files, because a smaller size compressed file can be imported more quickly.

[0024] Figure 3 illustrates an example of a client-server system. Client computer/machine 310 communicates with portal server computer/machine 311 through a network. Portal
15 server machine 311 can store files locally in portal server disk 312.

[0025] At step 110, the process of Figure 1 allows the user to select a compressed content package file to import to a portal server. User interface 210 shown in Figure 2 is an example of a user interface through which a user can select a compressed content package file to import. The user can type in the path or universal resource locator (URL) to a content
20 package file in region 211. Alternatively, the user can browse for a compressed content package file by selecting the browse option.

[0026] Interface 210 allows the user to select whether to import a content package file from a client or from the portal server machine. Interface 210 also allows a user to determine whether an imported file will overwrite existing content files by selecting an option from
25 dropdown list 214.

[0027] After the user has selected a compressed content package file, the user clicks the import button 213 to import the compressed content package file displayed in region 211. The compressed file is then transferred from client machine 310 to portal server machine 311 (or from one server to the destination server) at step 111. At step 112, the compressed file is
30 stored in a temporary directory in portal server disk 312.

[0028] At step 113, portal server machine 311 decompresses the compressed file stored in portal server disk 312. Server 311 unzips the zip file to decompress the compressed file. Unzipping the compressed file also separates the bundled files back into the original content package and content files. The content files are organized on the server machine in the same way that they were organized on the client machine. Specifically, the content files are stored into the same subdirectories that they were stored in on the client machine.

[0029] At step 114, the content files are imported to the portal server from the portal server location and deployed in a database of the portal server. Server 311 modifies the original base directory of the content package file and the content files to refer to a new base directory on server 311, instead of client machine 310. As a result, when the references to the content files are concatenated with the new base directory, the path that is created points to the new location of the content files on the server machine.

[0030] The present invention reduces the number of communications that a server has to make with a client machine to import a content package file. A server only needs to open up one communication with a client machine to import a content package file that has been bundled and compressed with all of its related content files.

[0031] Each communication between a client and a server typically takes about the same amount of time. Because only one communication between a client and a server is required, the present invention reduces the amount of time it takes to import a content package file and its related content files.

[0032] According to the present invention, the server does not fetch the content files separately from the client machine. Therefore, a user does not have to enter the name of client machine 310 to browse through the client machine. Thus, the user can browse through the separated content files on client machine 310 in a more intuitive manner.

[0033] For the same reason, the directories of the content files do not need to be in the same domain of the server machine or stored in shared folders. The present invention eliminates the need to place the content files in shared folders within the same domain, because all of the content files are bundled together and compressed into one file before they are imported.

[0034] The user does not have to identify the new base directory, because the new base directory is based on the machine that the files are imported to (e.g., server 311), and is set automatically by the server after decompressing the compressed content package file.

5 [0035] Also, in the present invention, client machine 310 does not have to be in the same domain of portal server 311. The server can conduct the initial communication with a browser on the client machine using an HTTP communication, without relying on the client machine being in the same domain as the portal server. In prior art systems, the client machine has to be on the same domain as the portal server, because the portal server has to make multiple communications with the client to access content files that are stored
10 separately on the hard drive of the client machine.

[0036] The present invention also eliminates the need to place read permission restrictions on the content files, because the client script on the client machine accesses the content files that are bundled and compressed together and transfers them all at once to the server.

15 [0037] While the present invention has been described herein with reference to particular embodiments thereof, a latitude of modification, various changes, and substitutions are intended in the present invention. In some instances, features of the invention can be employed without a corresponding use of other features, without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth. Therefore, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular configuration or method disclosed, without departing from the essential scope and spirit of
20 the present invention. It is intended that the invention not be limited to the particular embodiments disclosed, but that the invention will include all embodiments and equivalents falling within the scope of the claims.